

pass voter suppression laws at the State level with only a simple majority vote but not allow the U.S. Senate to do the same?

In the coming days, we will confront this sobering question, and every Member will go on record.

Finally, Members should expect that the next State work period would begin on the week of January 24.

NORD STREAM 2

Mr. President, now on Nord Stream, a few minutes ago the Senate voted against passing legislation proposed by Senator CRUZ to address Nord Stream 2.

Probably every single one of us in this Chamber agrees that the United States must be strong in confronting Putin and his destabilizing tactics in Eastern Europe and in Ukraine. But as my colleagues made clear this morning, Senator CRUZ's bill, in our opinion, is the wrong answer at this time to deter President Putin's aggression. I commend my colleagues who came to the floor to make the case against today's misguided proposal: my friends Chairman MENENDEZ, Senator SHAHEEN, who cochaired the Senate's NATO Observer Group, and Senator MURPHY.

After today's vote, this issue is not behind us. The work is not done. President Putin remains a threat, and we must address this matter.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work with Chairman MENENDEZ and Chairman BROWN to support Chairman MENENDEZ's comprehensive sanctions, security, and humanitarian aid package.

I believe the Menendez bill is the answer and an important step in the right direction. But, of course, I am willing to consider reasonable additions and modifications.

From interfering in elections to conducting a plethora of cyber attacks that target us here in the homeland, to what is happening today on the border of Ukraine, President Putin has left no doubt of his desire to stir up instability. His action with respect to Ukraine calls for a robust and severe deterrent action.

I hope my Republican colleagues will come forward and work with the chair so we can truly confront Putin's dangerous aggression.

MORNING BUSINESS

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted "No" on S. Res. 490, "a resolution recognizing the essential work of United States Capitol personnel on the anniversary of the insurrectionist attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021."

I am grateful for the service of all Capitol personnel who come to work every day to help operate the workings of Congress and keep Members safe. However, this resolution has been written to score cheap partisan political points. It attacks Republicans for their

response to COVID-19, and it contains falsehoods, such as the incorrect assertion that the riot at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 was perpetuated by "violent insurrectionists." Not a single person from that day has been charged with the crime of insurrection. If we are going to honor Capitol Hill workers—and we should—we must do so in a manner that focuses on their service to their nation, not on false narratives that are meant to divide us.

I support Capitol personnel but oppose this resolution as written.

TRIBUTE TO ANDY BRUNELLE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH, Representative MIKE SIMPSON, and Representative RUSS FULCHER, I congratulate Andy Brunelle on his remarkable career in government service. Andy is retiring on January 31, 2022, after 27 years with the U.S. Forest Service.

For more than 20 years, Andy has worked with our offices in his position as the Capitol City Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service. In this position, he has represented both the U.S. Forest Service Region 1 and Region 4 and the seven National Forests in Idaho as he has served as a liaison working with State and local government officials, agency directors, Idaho's Congressional Delegation and interest groups in Idaho on issues of statewide concern. Given the importance of the natural resources and species habitat on the more than 20 million acres of federal forested land in Idaho he has acted on behalf of, Andy has worked on many challenging issues over the years. This includes working closely with our delegation concerning improving and extending the Secure Rural Schools program, a vital resource for Idahoans. We thank him for his thoughtful, helpful, and pragmatic work for the betterment of our great State and country.

Andy began working for the U.S. Forest Service in 1995 after serving as Special Assistant for Natural Resources in the Office of Idaho Governor Cecil D. Andrus. From 1988 to 1995, he was the Governor's key staff person on a wide variety of natural resource issues, including challenging issues such as water quality, federal lands management, and protection of Snake River salmon. Additionally, he served on the Northwest Power Planning Council; Boise City Planning and Zoning Commission; and City of Boise advisory committees. Andy also dedicates considerable time to serving on boards of nonprofit organizations, including the Boise WaterShed Exhibits Environmental Education Center; Idaho Environmental Forum; Ted Trueblood Chapter of Trout Unlimited; and Harris Ranch Wildlife Mitigation Association.

As we wish Andy well in his well-earned retirement, we express our deep gratitude for dedicating so much of his time and talents to enhancing, sustaining, and conserving such an essential part of our State's treasures. Thank you, Andy, for your decades of

dedicated work and skilled problem-solving on behalf of Idahoans, and congratulations on your retirement.

REMEMBERING CALEB SHIELDS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to share a few words today to honor an outstanding leader and friend of mine who recently passed away.

Caleb Shields was the retired Chairman and former Councilman of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana.

We talk a lot about service in this body, but everyone in Congress could learn from how Caleb lived his life.

He dedicated himself to service—service to this country, where he served honorably in the United States Navy; service to his Tribe as an elected leader for 24 years and as one of their most tireless champions; and as the author of a 500-page book on his Tribe's history, he served the next generation of the Fort Peck Tribes and the next generation of Montanans who now have access to knowledge that won't ever be forgotten.

Caleb was widely regarded as one of the most influential Tribal leaders in the country during his tenure, a reputation that was well-earned. Among his many achievements are his successful 20-year fight to get a water pipeline and treatment center on the Fort Peck reservation. After they were built, they were both named in his honor, and for generations to come, the name Caleb Shields will continue to serve the Fort Peck Tribe.

Less widely known were the small ways that Caleb showed his love and devotion for the Fort Peck Tribe. I am told that Caleb could recite the record of the Poplar High School basketball team all the way back to the 1970s. Caleb was devoted to that team, and believed strongly that basketball could provide hope and momentum that could propel the dreams of future leaders.

Caleb's legacy, his friendship, and his leadership will be felt for generations. I want to express my deepest sympathy to Caleb's wife of 58 years, Yvonne, to the whole Shields family, and to the Fort Peck Tribes for the loss of this great leader. Caleb made our state and our Nation stronger, and he will never be forgotten.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ROBERT J. O'BRIEN

• Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, Robert J. O'Brien, Sr., age 103, passed away on January 4, 2022. A native of Chicago, O'Brien returned home after serving in the Navy during the Second World War and graduated from DePaul University.

Soon after, Mr. O'Brien joined John V. McCarthy & Co., the predecessor of R.J. O'Brien & Associates, where he focused on client and business research. By 1959, Mr. O'Brien was named President of John V. McCarthy & Co. and, in

1964, was elected to the Board of Governors of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, a position he held continuously until 1977. He served as Chairman of the Exchange from 1967 to 1968 and was inducted into the FIA Futures Hall of Fame in 2007.

During his tenure on the Board of Governors, contracts on live animals were successfully introduced to the market, representing the first in a wave of innovation in contract design. He was also involved in changing the structure of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange to make it more democratic and in revitalizing the audits and investigations department to attract new exchange members.

Mr. O'Brien's entrepreneurial spirit is best illustrated in his countless contributions to the futures industry as he built the largest independent futures brokerage and clearing firm in the United States. He pioneered new industry practices and created opportunity for others, including taking delivery of the first live cattle contract traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, broadcasting the first live commodity report from the trading floor, and sponsoring the first woman to work on the trading floor in 1966.

The longevity of Mr. O'Brien's career and the lasting success of his company are a testament to the focus placed on the relationships that have been built with more than 80,000 clients, his employees, and his family. Mr. O'Brien is survived by five children, 22 grandchildren, and 33 great grandchildren.●

RECOGNIZING BOWLING GREEN UTILITY WORKERS

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, during the early morning hours of December 11, 2021, Kentucky endured a series of tornadoes that proved to be the deadliest storms in the Commonwealth's history. There was damage throughout Southern Kentucky and beyond. Roofs were ripped off and trees snapped like twigs, but in this difficult time our community continues to come together and help one another. Immediately after, volunteers from all around Kentucky and even outside the Commonwealth showed up to help clean up the debris. Despite the devastation, I am reminded that the unbridled spirit of our Commonwealth shines its brightest during these times of adversity.

Of the many heroes that emerged during this crisis were the people of Bowling Green Municipal Utilities who immediately responded to the destruction and worked collectively to restore electricity to countless homes. Bowling Green Municipal Utilities reported 24,000 of its 31,500 customers were initially without power and 52 transmission polls had been severely damaged. By the next morning half of these powerless homes had their electricity restored. This should have been time for the men and women of BGMU to enjoy the upcoming holiday season. Instead, they responded to the call of

duty, working long shifts in the freezing cold. Because of their efforts, they were able to restore power to countless members of the community and provided relief to those most in need. We have a long road to recovery, but if we all display the perseverance our linemen and Kentuckians demonstrated, the Commonwealth will soon be back better than ever. I would like to personally thank people of Bowling Green Municipal Utilities for their continued service to all the impacted communities.●

RECOGNIZING THE EMPLOYEES OF 5 STAR ELECTRIC

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, during the early morning hours of December 11, 2021, Kentucky endured a series of tornadoes that proved to be the deadliest storms in the Commonwealth's history. There was damage throughout Southern Kentucky and beyond. Roofs were ripped off and trees snapped like twigs, but in this difficult time our community continues to come together and help one another. Immediately after, volunteers from all around Kentucky and even outside the Commonwealth showed up to help clear the debris. Despite the devastation, I am reminded that the unbridled spirit of our Commonwealth shines its brightest during these times of adversity.

Of the many heroes that emerged during this crisis were the people of 5 Star Electric who immediately responded to the destruction. 5 Star Electric sent out 140 linemen to restore the electrical grid, and, after a second storm hit Christian County later in the month, sent multiple crews to Hopkinsville to provide assistance to the impacted communities.

This should have been time for the men and women of 5 Star Electric to enjoy the upcoming holiday season. Instead, they responded to the call of duty, working long shifts in the freezing cold. Because of their efforts, they were able to restore power to countless members of the community and provided relief to those most in need. We have a long road to recovery, but if we all display the perseverance our linemen and Kentuckians demonstrated, the Commonwealth will soon be back better than ever. I would like to personally thank the people of 5 Star Electric for their continued service to all the impacted communities.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations

which were referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1836. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the time during which members of the Armed Forces serve on active duty for training qualifies for educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5746) an act to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of nonexcess property of the Administration, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1836. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the time during which members of the Armed Forces serve on active duty for training qualifies for educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CASEY, from the Special Committee on Aging:

Special Report entitled "Financial Literacy in Retirement: Providing Just-In-Time Information and Assistance for Older Americans and People with Disabilities" (Rept. No. 117-54).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mrs. MURRAY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, to be Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2024.

*Javier Ramirez, of Illinois, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director.

*Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

*David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

*Robert McKinnon Califf, of North Carolina, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.